

CLYDE ACTION

TO UNITE AGAINST THE CUTS

NO.1

January 77

5p.



CUT DEFENCE— NOT WELFARE

Says Alex Ferry

IF THE present Government cuts in public spending are allowed to go ahead, some essential social services may simply cease to exist.

That is the view of Alex Ferry, Scottish divisional organiser of the engineering workers' union.

Mr Ferry claimed that it might take decades to repair the damage that could be done to social and community services.

In an interview last week with Clyde Action, Mr Ferry called for co-ordinated action by community and trade union organisations against the cuts which have their most damaging effects on working class people.

change the whole basis on which the international markets and industry operate.

"There must be a move towards Socialism throughout the world. And it will be a tragedy if the lessons are not learned this time."

"All the sacrifices that working people have made in the past — and that they will have to make over the next year or two, will have been for nothing if we don't learn to manage the economy more sensibly."



"It's essential," he said, "that there is a strong pressure group to make sure that what cuts there are don't fall on those services and those people who need them most."

Mr Ferry called for a much harder look at alternative sources of wealth. The export of private capital overseas and the increasing proportion of defence spending were two of the obvious candidates, he said.

Advocating a greater bias in the allocation of public funds towards manufacturing industry, Mr Ferry warned:

"If this doesn't happen it's certain we face major problems on Clydeside. At best we might be talking about saving half the ship-building on the Clyde; at worst we might lose the lot."

Mr Ferry stressed that the unions would not stand back and let this happen.

"The only thing that will prevent a major confrontation between the unions and the Government will be a positive reallocation of national resources towards manufacturing industry."

"But, of course", he added, "any increase in the allocation of public resources in this way must be matched by a growth in public ownership."

There is only one way, said Mr Ferry, of eliminating the recurrent economic crises affecting the industrialised nations. That is to

Scottish Council Labour Party urged 'See Councils follow NEC policy'

THE Clydeside Action Co-ordinating Committee is seeking an early meeting with the Labour Party's Scottish Council to discuss implementation of NEC policy on the cuts in Scotland.

Back in November the Labour Party executive issued a call for a campaign against the cuts in line with the 1976 conference decision that Labour-controlled councils should actively oppose reduction in spending on social services. So far in Scotland there have only been isolated protests by individual MPs and Labour Parties.

Lobbies of the Strathclyde and Glasgow councils by the action committees achieved no material change in policy.

Now the coordinating committee has written to the Scottish council asking it to receive a deputation at its February meeting.

Coordinating committee secretary Tony Gallacher urged all labour movement organisations to write to the council in support.

"The Labour Party stands for the interests of working people. Given the current political situation in Scotland, it is vital that the Scottish Council gives its full support to those fighting in Parliament and local councils for alternative economic policies. The interests of working people must be put before those of big business."



ACTIONS UNITE!! CUTS STOP UNEMPLOYMENT

WHAT IS CLYDE ACTION?

THE demonstration pictured above was organised last November outside the City Chambers by the Clyde-side Action Co-ordinating Committee to demonstrate the widespread opposition to unemployment and the cuts amongst working people in Strathclyde. Over 1200 were on the demonstration on a Wednesday morning to lobby the Councillors, including many shop stewards representing their

workmates. To take the campaign against the cuts further forward, the Co-ordinating Committee, consisting of representatives of the local Action Committees, is now bringing out a newspaper CLYDE ACTION every two months to spread information about the cuts and help organise against them.

The paper will put forward alternative policies to the cuts and unemployment and

It is essential to win the widest possible support for them. As the picture shows, the opposition to the cuts comes from all sections and CLYDE ACTION wants to help extend and develop this. Contact your local Action Committee (see back page) or the editor of CLYDE ACTION (Jo Kelly, tel: 041-883 0376) if you have any information about cuts in your area, or if you want to help.

JIM AIRLIE SAYS:

'NO TO THE SOCIAL CONTRACT'

JIM AIRLIE convener of shop stewards in Govan Shipbuilders stated that "the working people must mount a campaign to oppose the cuts in public spending."

"This can be achieved by opposing the social contract entered into by the T.U.C. and Labour government. This contract has not solved the endemic serious structural weaknesses in the economy, but has in fact increased unemployment."

The 1974 Labour Party Manifesto laid the guidelines for the action that must be taken. In line with the manifesto the government must take over the commanding heights of the economy and drop the present disastrous policies which are lowering living standards for



working people, seriously eroding the social services and creating unemployment.

The Clyde fight against the cuts must be based on full employment, no redundancies and full social

services. The campaign must be developed in workshops, offices and in all sectors of industry.

The way forward is clear. We must defeat the social contract, impose selective import controls, regenerate investment in the manufacturing industries under public control."

NEXT ISSUE

will include:
Rents and Housing
feature.

Dennis Canavan, M.P. on
"The Labour Party and the
Cuts".

BABCOCK AND WILCOX — A FIGHT FOR SURVIVAL

THE crisis in the British power engineering industry has already had its effects on Clyde-side.

Since 1966, the workforce at Babcock and Wilcox plants in the West of Scotland has dropped from 10,500 to the present 5,500.

And the drastic reduction in orders for power plant in Britain in recent years will cut the labour force at the main Renfrew plant by 33% before mid-April.

This severe contraction in the labour force threatens the future viability of the whole company.

Closure of Babcock and Wilcox would have repercussions throughout the country, creating unemployment in the industries which supply the Renfrew plant with goods and services... in the West of Scotland alone, the loss of jobs resulting from

closure would be 11,000 and nationally another 26,000.

On the best calculations, the loss of male jobs in all sectors would add 1½% to the already high male unemployment rate in the area and would cost the local economy £23m annually.

ENERGY SURPLUS

The main causes of the crisis in the power industry are the present energy surplus and the Government's delay in deciding on the form and scale of their nuclear energy plans.

One short-term measure which the Government could take would be to order three 660MW boilers to complete the Drax power station at Selby in Yorkshire.

However, the CGEB claim Drax will not be needed until the 1980s and, in any case, some long-term

answer for the industry must be found.

The rundown of the home-based power engineering industry will have political as well as economic effects.

It would make it impossible to cope with future plant requirements, leading to a loss of orders for the home industry, further unemployment, and dependence of imports of large pressure vessels without control of standards or cost.

A further effect would be the Government would lose all influence on international decisions on the peaceful use of nuclear resources.

The closure of Babcock and Wilcox Renfrew plant poses a threat, therefore, not only to local prosperity and job prospects, but to the viability of Britain's whole power engineering industry and our position as one of the world's leading manufacturers of generating plant.

SAVE THE NURSERIES...

THE recent sharp increases in the price of food, in council house rents, in mortgage interest levels and in rates, as well as the grim rise in the number of male unemployed, have meant that more and more women have to go to work. In Glasgow, 45% of women go out to work, a higher rate than in any other area of Britain. But many of these women face the problem of trying to find places in nursery schools for their children.

The proposed cuts in education will affect nursery schools more than any other section of the education system. Local authorities do not have a legal obligation to provide nursery education, so this has been the first choice for the severest restrictions.

Strathclyde region alone hopes to cut more than £50,000 from the nursery school budget over the next year. And, with only 13,000 nursery places available for an estimated 80,000 eligible children, Clyde-side offers less than 20% of its children places in nurseries, now recognised as a vital part of the learning process. The comparable European average is 90%.

REDEVELOPMENT

Availability of nursery places throughout the region is patchy. Some districts — like Renfrew, some middle-class suburbs, and areas depopulated by redevelopment — have an over-provision of places; but this only goes to highlight the

situation in other parts of the region. But even if a mother is lucky enough to find a nursery place, this may not help much to let her get out to work.

Because of restrictions in the number of nursery nurses — caused of course by the cuts — nurseries are only open between 9 a.m. and 11.45 and from 1 p.m. to 3.45. Another clear case of discrimination against working women and working class families who need every penny they can earn.

Yet, next year, 200 qualified nursery nurses will finish training in Glasgow with virtually no chance of a job, and another 200 will be half-way through training. So while mothers and children continue to

suffer, urgently-needed nurses will be unemployed.

Trainee nursery nurses have already taken part in demonstrations against the cuts in education and they have the support of a number of trade unions — Nalgo, Nupe, TGWU etc.

Instead of using the decline in the birth rate and a healthy supply of teachers to make long-needed improvements in the education system, the Government is making the situation an excuse to cut back.

So any claim that public spending cuts will have only short-term effects can be seen as nonsense, when the future abilities of a whole generation of children are being jeopardised.



...DEATH ON THE CLYDE

THE jewel in the crown of Britain's welfare state is supposed to be the National Health Service.

The NHS may once have been in the forefront of state medical treatment in its day, but it now lags far behind the rest of Europe in a number of crucial areas of health care.

Infant mortality is one of the most striking examples.

Sixteen British children out of 1000 die in the first year of life. This means that in Britain, more children die in the first year of life than in all the next 24 years.

It also puts Britain well down the European league for infant mortality:

Denmark	9.5/1000
Netherlands	9.5/1000
Sweden	11.9/1000
Norway	12.0/1000
Finland	15.3/1000
Lux'burg	16.0/1000
Britain	16.0/1000

But even more significant than the differences between countries is the difference between classes in infant mortality.

An official committee reporting last month on the "holocaust" of infant mortality in Britain, pointed out that twice as many children of unskilled workers die in the first month of life as children of professional people "and the gap between the social classes in this respect has been widening steadily for 25 years."

The breakdown of figures for Strathclyde — the region is, of course, above the national average (17/1000) — show that the working class urban areas have a much higher mortality rate than middle-class suburbs.

Strathkelvin (Bishopbriggs) at 4/1000, Argyll and Bute (5/1000) and Eastwood (7/1000) have the lowest rates.

Clydebank (34), Lanark (31), Inverclyde (27) and the City of Glasgow (22) have amongst the worst rates.

This gap in health care between rich and poor, which has widened over the last 25 years, must widen further if the Government's spending restrictions are allowed to bite into the quality of medical services.



A SECTION OF THE ACTION COMMITTEE

SAVE PARTICK GARAGE

PUBLIC transport in the greater Glasgow area is certain to be one of the worst victims of Government cuts over the next few months. The Greater Glasgow transport executive has already announced plans to cut services and increase fares in April.

But the threat to transport services has brought an immediate response from workers in the industry, opposed to the closure of garages and higher fares.

The workers at Partick garage have been in the forefront of the opposition. They have formed the Partick Garage Action Committee, set up to resist the closure of the garage which is scheduled for April. This would be the second garage to close within 12 months, following the closure of Bridgeton Garage last May.

CONFERENCE

The transport executive claim that the shutdown at Partick would mean only a 5% reduction in services. But Alex Reid, TGWU convenor at Partick, believes that the true figure is 10% if the closure of Bridgeton is taken into consideration.

One of the first moves by the action committee was to organise a

conference on December 8, through the TGWU. Speakers included Jim Sillars MP, Margo McDonald, Jimmy Reid, Hugh Wyper and Alex Reid.

Michael Claine, a member of the Partick action committee, who chaired the conference, called for united trade union action to bring changes in Government policies. All of the speakers rejected the idea of blind loyalty to the Labour Government, echoing the sentiments of Jim Sillars, who said:

"If the workers are to be loyal to the Government, then the Government must in turn be loyal to the workers."

CHANGE DIRECTION

Jimmy Reid applauded the efforts of the Partick Garage

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COMMITTEE LOBBY ON NOVEMBER 10

PARTICK



LOOK AT IT THIS WAY - THE LONGER WAIT BETWEEN BUSES WILL ENABLE YOU TO SAVE UP ENOUGH TO PAY THE NEW HIGHER FARES

workers. "Like them," he said, "we must all fight now if we are to change the direction of Government policies."

A shop steward from Maryhill Garage, G. McIntyre, pointed out that 250,000 people a day use the public transport system in the greater Glasgow area, a much higher proportion than in any other area.

"We must put maximum pressure on MPs and councillors," he said, "to fight against the increase in fares and reduction in services."

A spokesman for the Underground workers claimed that, if the Partick closure and other cutbacks went through, 300 jobs would be lost when the Underground system is closed in June for modernisation.

Shop stewards' representatives from a wide area pledged support for the Partick workers.

The following services at present operating from Partick garage, will be altered if the closure goes ahead:

No 63 (Yoker / Scotstoun-Dalmarnock): reduced to 30 min service with no buses after 5 p.m., Saturday and Sunday.

No 56 (Scotstoun-Alexandra Park): Day service to be reduced by 8% with no buses after 5 p.m.

No 32 (Scotstoun-Keppochill Road): 15% cut in Sunday service. 6% cut in the rest.

No 6 (Garscadden-Provanmill): 17% cut in Sunday service.

No 33 (Blairdardie-Gairbraid Avenue): Total service to be halved throughout the week.

THE ALTERNATIVE

THE present Right-wing Labour Government, the Tories, the TV commentators and the vast majority of our newspapers all support the cuts in public spending because, they say, the only alternative is even greater inflation, industrial bankruptcy and still higher levels of unemployment.

But there IS an alternative to these anti-working class policies, an alternative put forward by many in the trade union and labour movement. The press invariably dismisses this alternative as "unworkable", without saying why or, more often, they totally ignore it.

Their justification is to provide more money for British industry to invest in new machinery, factories and plant and so produce a lively, expanding economy.

There are so many defects in this scheme that listing them would fill this newspaper.

However, three main ones need to be noted:—

1) How do workers in the public services buy the products of new industries when they are starved of wages, and funds?

2) How do we train the manpower to work in new industries when education spending is being drastically reduced?

3) Who controls the money going into British industry to ensure that it is used to benefit working people rather than speculators and profiteers?

The present Government policy is doomed to fail to renew British industry simply because the Government is unable to plan for the future so long as control of investment resources is left in the hands of private industry.

PLANNING AND CONTROL

A plan to develop British industry and to channel that development to benefit working people is possible through a government responsive to their needs.

But such a government needs to control investment and production and that can only be done through public ownership, that is, through nationalisation.

First and foremost that means taking over the big banks and insurance companies so that public control of the money supply is ensured.

Secondly it means taking over the most important manufacturing industries (especially those in a virtual monopoly position) to establish control over what is to be produced.

The fact is that the aims of maximising profit and of planning the economy in the interest of the people are incompatible.

Whenever nationalisation is mentioned, the press always tells us that it will cost too much. This is because they are unwilling to look at various sources of extra income.

The most important of these overseas private investment by

British industry. In 1975 this amounted to £1500m (only slightly lower than the whole balance of payments deficit).

Every penny of this money could have been used to develop industry and increase employment here in Britain. It shows that funds for investment are available, but the profit motive means that British industry is allowed to stagnate while, for example, millions of pounds go to prop up apartheid in South Africa.

Probably the next most suitable area for the source of funds for investment is defence spending. Especially at a time of increasing détente, symbolised by the Helsinki agreement of 1975, the need for increased spending on arms is hard to understand.

Other useful ways of raising

the funds required would be a wealth tax so as to mop up a substantial source of unearned income, and stricter profits tax.

POLITICAL ACTION

A Labour Government using this alternative set of economic policies as a basis for its economic strategy would not have an easy time at the hands of the multi-national firms. We have seen in the past how "runs on the pound" have been engineered to force the Labour Government to take particular anti-working class measures.

But this tactic could be resisted through strict controls on the export of capital from Britain and immediate steps to end sterling's position as a reserve currency.

Those critics who accuse the Left of wanting to institute a siege economy have, at least recognised one factor — that a determined fight will be needed by the Government against big business interests. And this fight will only be won by a Government operating with the support of the organised trade union and labour movement at every level from shop floor to head office. (The STUC has an alternative strategy very similar to the one advanced here).

A struggle in the labour movement will be needed to develop the call for alternative policies and this is a major task for the action committees.

Compare the costs



The new multi-role combat aircraft (MRCA). RAF order for 365—at £3 million each—£1,155 million



600 council houses costing £5,000 could be built for the price of one MRCA, or 225,000 houses for the total RAF order.



Through-deck cruiser, £75 million



Two new towers (Crawley and Hemel Hempstead), £72 million.



Polaris submarine Revenge



Four hospitals

Renfrew District Action Committee

A PUBLIC meeting against the cuts and unemployment is being held on Sunday, February 27, in the AUEW Halls, Ince Street, Paisley at 3 p.m.

The speakers are Norman Buchan, MP, Hugh D'Arcy of the STUC and Allen Adams prospective Labour Parliamentary Candidate for Paisley.

CLYDESIDE'S ACTION COMMITTEES

A FORCE FOR UNITY

At the start of last year a number of action committees were formed throughout Clydeside to provide a focus for the fight against the cuts in public spending and the ever-lengthening dole queues.

Attacks on the living standards of working people are daily on the increase — indeed the situation is far worse today than it was a year ago. And we are always being told that it will get much worse before it gets better.

It is in this context that the action committees are drawing on the strength of the organised labour and trade union movement to resist and oppose the policies that have produced this present crisis.

Unity of all sections under attack is very important at the present time, and the action committees are sponsored and supported by shopstewards and district committees of many unions and large factories, as well as trades councils throughout Clydeside.

The potential of the unity was shown at the mass lobby of the Strathclyde Regional Council on November 10, 1976. The 1,200 people who took part included delegates from shopstewards committees, trades councils and union district committees officially representing a total of

over 80,000 Clydeside workers. The lobby itself was organised by the Clydeside Action Co-ordinating Committee which was set up in the course of 1976 to develop effective liaison between all the different action committees. Its secretary is Mr T. Gallacher, 9 Fordyce Street, Glasgow G11.

CLYDEBANK

Action Committee now being set up by Trades Council to develop unity against cuts. Trades Council has already organised deputations against cuts to District Council. Secretary Eddie Kelly (952 6519).

PAISLEY

Set up on initiative of Paisley Trades Council. Planning public meeting early this year. Secretary June Fair (27 3639).

AYRSHIRE

Co-ordinating Committee against unemployment and the cuts in existence since 1975 and based in Trades Council. Have held a number of successful demonstrations. Secretary Peter McShannon (9292 6844).

GLASGOW SOUTH SIDE

Formed on initiative of Larkfield Garage AUEW shopstewards. Has held a number of public meetings. Contact AUEW Convener, Larkfield Garage.

GLASGOW NORTH

Formed Autumn 1976 with support. UCATT No 3 branch and Poulis Garage. Meets Maryhill Trade Union Centre. Secretary Jeff McCracken (221 6931).

GLASGOW WEST

Developed out of Glasgow West Anti-Common Market Committee in 1975. Has organised many public meetings, rallies, mass petitions. Supported by all major shopstewards committees. At present campaigning to save Partick Garage. Conference against cuts organised for January 29. Contact Alan Mackinnon (339 1102).

GLASGOW SOUTH WEST

Formed in December 1975 on the initiative of Rolls Royce shopstewards. Supported by Chrysler, Prestcold, Perssons and Paisley District AUEW. Has campaigned against closure of South Govan town hall, and cuts in libraries, baths and community education. Secretary David Drever (883 0376).

GLASGOW EAST END

Formed to fight particularly against closure of Tollcross Foundry. Contact Jim Smith (471 4970).

CATHKIN

Formed in 1976 and is backed by Camboosing Trades Council. Is organising public meetings and door to door canvases to win support for alternative policies. Contact Pat Howden (634 7018).

EAST KILBRIDE

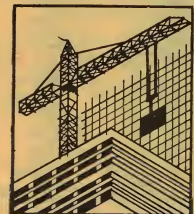
Co-ordinating Committee against the cuts and unemployment formed Summer 1975 on the initiative of the Trades Council. Main task at present to win unity of all workers in area against redundancies. Contact Ken Macmillan (32 22849).

MONKLANDS

Trades Council leading fight to stop closure of Alexandra Hospital. 20,000 signatures collected. Backing from local Labour Party and MP. Secretary Hugh Cree (266 5811).

New plan to butcher Direct Labour Department

A NEW document prepared by Glasgow District Council proposes the creation of a new building works department to be run like a private construction firm. The money to finance the new department will come from Glasgow ratepayers. Like a private company the proposed department will be able to tender for work in the private sector. Its remit gives the 'company' the right of hiring and firing, meaning that workmen could be paid off at the end of each contract — as in the private sector.



At the time of record unemployment on Clydeside the Council is throwing 800 building workers on the dole over the next twelve months. Worse still, the Council's proposed 'company' does not have to take on a further 1,000 workers in the existing building works department. Consequently the Council's proposals amount to nothing less than a direct attack on the interests of the building workers employed by Glasgow District Council and will be totally rejected by them. Donald MacGregor, Scottish Regional Secretary of UCATT, stated that "One can only assume the intention is to run down the present department and replace it with this new

company. This is something the union will oppose."

NO REDUNDANCIES

The Council claims that it merely wishes to make the building department more efficient. The unions involved agree on efficiency but that this must not involve redundancies. John McFadden, secretary of the Glasgow District Branch of NALGO, points out that there is more than sufficient work to maintain the existing department: "We propose that part of the Summerston Phase 3 contract should be allocated to the Building Department as recommended by the Scottish Development Department, other modernisation work, and contracts in the East End project of Glasgow." Mr McFadden stressed, "We totally reject these proposals that have been put forward by the Council."

A cynical press campaign is currently being waged by the Federation of Building Trades Employers and the Federation of National Civil Engineering Contractors against the Government's intention to extend the areas of operation for Local Authority Direct Labour Departments. In national advertisements they are using Glasgow Council's failure to develop an efficient department as 'proof' that Direct Labour does not work. In turn the Glasgow Council has taken the opportunity of this adverse publicity to avoid facing up to the real problems.

What has caused this situation? Basically, the effect of government cuts on the construction industry. Every school, housing scheme and hospital cancelled means less contracts and less jobs. Unemployment in the industry has now reached near 15%. Bankruptcies have reached an all time record. Hence competition for contracts heats up, the big firms undercut the smaller firms on price levels and are

fast achieving a monopoly position. Only one source of competition remains: the direct labour departments. These are what the big firms are out to kill now, and willing to use all kinds of trickery and under-priced contracting to do so.

For the building monopolies to achieve a position of complete dominance would be a disaster for the labour movement. In Glasgow it must be demonstrated that there are many Direct Labour departments which are efficiently run, and save ratepayers thousands of pounds which they would otherwise be paying out to private business profits. To do this a united front has to be built up among the unions involved in the department, and the council compelled to re-organise and re-equip the department in a way that will enable it to compete with the factory building techniques of the private monopolies. This cannot be done on the basis of forced redundancies. It can only be carried through with the full support of the unions and shopstewards. The present plan would just be one more step on the road to complete closure. It must be scrapped.

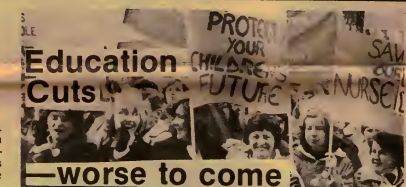
The council for educational advance has catalogued the cuts in education in recent years:

1974-75 — cuts of £182m by Tory Government.
1975-75 — Labour limit growth to 4%.

NALGO calls for action

THE National Executive of NALGO (National and Local Government Officers) has backed a call from its local members in Scotland for a one-day strike in protest against cuts in local government expenditure. Through the STUC's newly-formed Local Government Sub-Committee, other trade unions have been invited to join in and assist in the organisation of the stoppage.

It is estimated by NALGO that some 10,000 to 12,000 jobs may be lost in Scotland in the next year as a direct result of the Government decision to cut the Rate Support Grant by 4%. In Strathclyde, actual redundancies could be as high as two



The state education system is in the process of being systematically devastated by the onslaught of cuts, with threats of worse to come.

Propaganda has been produced to convince both the public and teachers that this is in the best interests of education.

The truth is that 50% of classes in primary schools have more than 30 pupils, while at least 20% have more than 35 pupils.

It is surprising, then, that teachers coping with large classes view the official claims of surplus teachers with scepticism? The real situation bears little resemblance to the official statistics.

The council for educational advance has catalogued the cuts in education in recent years:

1974-75 — cuts of £182m by Tory Government.
1975-75 — Labour limit growth to 4%.

or three thousand, with non-teaching staff in schools and nurseries particularly badly hit.

At a Special National Conference of NALGO this month, an amendment from Glasgow District Branch will be moved stating: "The Social Contract by the Government and the Trades Unions is no longer binding" while Strathclyde Region Branch will ask that NALGO should 'not support any agreement for the continuation of the Social Contract'.

Both branches will also support calls for further industrial action to stop redundancies.

Andrew Sweeney

April '76 — Further cut of £76m. September '76 Government demands 'nil growth', meaning, in real terms, a further cut of 6%.

This country has about two million non-literate adults; 70% overcrowded primary classes; fewer students in higher education than many European countries. These may well be some of the reasons for our continued economic decline.

Yet, despite these facts, cuts in education continue, with strict limits on capital spending, and on the recruitment of teachers.

Clyde Action Launching Special

THE LAGGAN
Wednesday, 2nd February
Sloans Bar, Argyle Street, Glasgow
7.30 to 11 p.m.

Tickets from:
D. Drever, 25 Moonlight Avenue,
Glasgow G5 (883 0376)

Glasgow West Action Committee

CONFERENCE
Community In
Crisis

Chair:
Sam Barr, Boilermakers

Speakers:
Neil Carmichael, MP, Alex
Ferry and Malcolm Green

Saturday, January 29
2 p.m. till 6 p.m.

St Bride's Centre
19 Rosevale Street

CLYDE ACTION

TO UNITE AGAINST THE CUTS

No. 2

MARCH/APRIL, 1977

5p.



FIRST STEP TO END UNEMPLOYMENT

TIME FOR USHACKLED WAGES

NO truck with the Social Contract. Support the national stoppage after Easter. This was the call that went out from the massive conference of Labour Movement representatives organised in London on 26 February by the Liaison Committee for the Defence of Trade Unions (LCDTU).

The 1,200 delegates, including 200 from Scotland, heard a succession of speakers arguing against the Social Contract.

In return for surrendering bargaining rights on wages and conditions, trade unions and the working people they represent had received nothing but growing unemployment, continuing inflation and worsening living standards. This was the theme of Jim Airlie, convener of Govan Yard. Speaker after speaker argued that the only way to end unemployment and the cuts was a wages offensive.

Only active rank and file struggle against the Contract could regenerate the forces of militancy and self-confidence on the shop-floor, provide a basis for turning the movement and government towards alternative policies and win the overall fight against unemployment and the cuts.

The conference called on the movement to adopt a six-point programme of action.

● A national stoppage the day after Parliament reassembles



George McCormack, convener, Rolls-Royce, Hillington.

● The Liaison Conference has provided the Labour Movement with the rallying call needed to fight for alternative policies. The time is right for a change of policy and we must finally put the so-called Social Contract in the historical ashbin.

It is inexcusable for the official leaderships of so many trade unions to perpetuate the fallacy that a solution to our problems be found by continuing to apply the Social Contract.

All the promises about a shift in the balance of wealth and power in favour of working people have never been shown any consideration by the Cabinet.

The month-to-month erosion of our standard of living in all its forms should be sufficient evidence that this part of the supposed bargain cannot and will not be realised.

Within the next few months all sections of the Labour Movement will be reviewing their positions. Emphasis should be given to a

following the Easter recess with mass lobby and demonstrations in major centres.

● Maximum support for the Leyland stewards' April 3 conference against the social contract.

● Support all days of action called by public service workers.

● Support all workers in action for the right to work for wages and equal pay.

● Establish local campaign committees to carry through the conference decisions.

● Oppose any Special T.U.C. convened to agree to new pay curbs prior to the holding of union conferences.

The LCDTU was set up in 1966 and played a key part in defeating 'In Place of Strife', the 1969 Bill designed to shackle trade unions, and was also instrumental in rendering the Heath Government's Industrial Relations Act ineffective. The same success in helping to organise the defeat of the Social Contract and forcing the Labour Government to implement its conference policies would be a tremendous victory.

alternative economic and political strategy.

The lesson must be learned that if your Socialism is founded in sincerity there can be no compromise with big business within the capitalist system. Only by pursuing the programme laid down at the Liaison Conference can the fundamental changes we need be brought about.

Jim McDonald, deputy convener, Albion Motors shop stewards.

● We wholeheartedly welcome the complete rejection of the Social Contract called for by the LCDTU. The recognition by the delegates that the Social Contract has been used only as a regulator to keep down wages is a great step forward. The fight for higher wages is vital for the movement.

As a Leyland factory we particularly support the conference called by the Leyland stewards for April 3 to launch an all-out offensive against the Social Contract and to develop the wages struggle.

Lobby of Scottish Council of Labour Party

AT its meeting on February 12 all members of the Labour Party's Scottish Council were handed copies of composite motion 26 passed at the Labour Party's October Conference. This motion called on Labour councils not to implement cuts in social services and to mount active campaigns against them.

The lobby was organised by the Clyde Action Co-ordinating Committee and supported by local action committees, the Glasgow

AUEW District Committee, AUEW TASS Division 3, Cathcart Labour Party, and several shop stewards committees and trades councils.

Three representatives from the Co-ordinating Committee addressed the officers of the Council, Mr Joe McGovern, convener of Yarrow's shop stewards, Mr William Bell, secretary of Paisley Trades Council and Mr John Lyons, of Glasgow AUEW District Committee. They urged the council to adopt conference

policy and support those Labour councillors standing firm against the cuts.

CLYDE ACTION, the paper of the Co-ordinating Committee, will be continuing to fight for the adoption of alternative policies by the Labour Government. In this issue we carry an article by Dennis Canavan, M.P., putting that alternative. Letters and articles on local struggles against the cuts are welcomed by the editor, Mr Jo Kelly, 1014 Govan Road, Glasgow, G51.

FULL SUPPORT FOR MASS ACTION ON CUTS

THIS is the call by the General Council of the S.T.U.C. to give maximum backing to the one-day strike of the Public Service Workers on March 9th. This united action is being taken by the three largest local government unions: N.A.L.G.O., N.U.P.E. and A.S.T.M.S. and is an expression of their continued opposition to policies based on cut-backs and redundancies.

Right at the heart of the decision to take industrial action is anger at the severe reduction in the rate support grant—a cut of more than £60m. From Scottish local authority budgets in the coming year. Added to this are the more long-term cuts envisaged in the recent White Paper on public spending. Such "trimmings" have resulted in a policy of non-replacement of staff and a reduction in services which has meant hardship for those most in need—the elderly, the young and the disabled. Charles Drury, N.A.L.G.O. organiser in Scotland, states in a special strike bulletin: "The message has been spelt out loud and clear: the local authorities, who can make or mar the wellbeing of the public they exist to serve are being denied the necessary resources to maintain an essential part of the organisation of the democratic machinery of this country."

The decision by the S.T.U.C. to organise a mass demonstration in support of the public service workers' action lays the crucial foundation for a continued campaign against cuts and the policies that bring them about. At a time when the Labour and Trade Union Movement is beginning to mobilise against another round of wage restraint, the fight against the dole queue and the axings must be seen as part and parcel of the same struggle.

And this struggle must be one which forces the present Labour Government to turn to genuine Socialist policies—this was continually stressed at the Liaison

Committee Conference recently in London. The call at that mass meeting of the movement was for a carrying out of Labour Party Conference and Executive Committee decisions, a turning away from the current disaster course at present being followed. Contrary to those who claim that

these calls are undermining the Labour Government, it is increasingly clear from the ever-growing groundswell of trade union opposition to current policies, that only a real change of policy will ensure the return of a Labour Government at the next General Election.



IN this time of dire crisis, when we're all tightening up the old belts and the country's got its back to the wall, it's always pleasing to have some of the gloom lifted from our lives.

For as prices continue to zoom and wages to tumble in real value, we can draw comfort from the realisation that not everyone is feeling

the pinch... Company profits are booming like never before! We've decided to do our bit in spreading this good news as quickly as possible, if wage packets are getting leaner, we surely won't grudge the boss his fatter profits? Our inside pages give the latest profit increases for seven companies operating in Scotland. (Source: AUEW TASS/Fact document No. 14)

RETURN TO MANIFESTO

ABOUT a year ago, nearly 40 Tribune M.P.s refused to support the Government's notorious White Paper on Public Expenditure. I do not recall the mass media saluting us as heroes in the same way as they recently hailed the 'courage' of two Right-Wing Labour M.P.s who withdrew their support for the Dock Labour Bill, a piece of reasonable legislation drawn up after full consultation with the Trade Union Movement. On the contrary, we were subjected to a torrent of abuse. Some critics even suggested that we had been guilty of hatching some kind of sinister, subversive plot.

CROCODILE TEARS

Ironically, these same elements in the Press are now shedding crocodile tears over some of the effects of the cuts which are now becoming all too visible. Cuts in public expenditure may be a cold, clinical impersonal term used by Treasury bureaucrats to balance their books. But when translated into reality, they inevitably mean cuts in essential services such as housing, health, education and social work. Cuts in the social wage are as bad if not worse than cuts in the weekly wage packet because those who suffer most are usually most in need: the old, the sick, the disabled and deprived children.

It is sheer hypocrisy for the Tories or anyone else to hold up their hands in horror at the shortage of home-helps or the threatened closure of schools, while crying out for more savage cuts in public expenditure which would make even Dennis Healey look like Santa Claus.

Action against the cuts in Cambuslang and Rutherglen

THE effects of the Government's disastrous economic policies are having the same effect on the people of Cambuslang and Rutherglen as elsewhere in the country.

Over the years the area has suffered the loss of many of its major industries. Coal, paper, chemical and heavy engineering plants have gone.

Now it faces a decline of the remaining two major employers, the British Steel Corporation and Hoover Ltd.

Last year there were over 1200 redundancies in the B.S.C. Another 1300 jobs will be lost before 1980 with most going before the end of this year. Over the last two years Hoover have reduced their workforce by 1000 workers. The proposed closure of the Dalmar-nock and Clyde Mill power stations later this year will add another 400 to the 4300 already jobless in the area.

The shop stewards committees from both the B.S.C. and Hoover along with the local trades council, have made representations to Parliament and the S.T.U.C., and have gained the support of the S.T.U.C. in campaigning for new investment and industry in the area.

The cuts in public expenditure paint a grim picture for the social life of the area with the closures of a library and a hall, both in continuous use by various sections of the community.

This, seen in conjunction with the proposed redundancies of public sector workers and increased charges for the hire of halls threatens the very existence of these sections of the community. As working people throughout the country have been doing, the people of Cambuslang and Rutherglen have set up an action committee to co-ordinate the

by Denis Canavan, MP

There comes a point when responsibility for the consequences of an economic strategy cannot be denied by those who support such a strategy.

NAIVE

It would not be so bad if the Treasury strategy was working but, even by their own criteria, it clearly is not. The declared aim of the strategy is to transfer resources from the public sector services into manufacturing industry. We could certainly do with a fundamental restructuring and regeneration of industry but it would be naive to imagine that this could come about by simply slashing public expenditure.

Such negative action cannot and will not achieve any sudden, magical transfer of either manpower resources or financial resources into industry.

For example, many of the students leaving colleges of education last summer were unable to find teaching jobs. A recent E.I.S. survey shows that less than 1% of the sample found jobs in manufacturing industry. There are few vacancies for them in industry.

Industry is crippled through lack of planning and lack of investment, because it is still too dependent on the whims of private investors whose aim is to line their own pockets, rather than provide jobs, goods and services for others.

Governments of various political complexions have tried a variety of different intervention schemes to help industry but none of these props to the private sector has solved the basic investment problem of industry. The most recent White Paper on Public Expenditure indicates a 25% decrease in industrial aid to Scotland, mainly due to the abolition of Regional Employment Premiums.

Admittedly, the R.E.P. scheme was far from perfect but to abolish it without any replacement is a strange move on the part of a Government whose declared intention is to divert more resources into industry.

JOBS

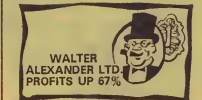
If the money saved had been transferred to the Scottish Development Agency budget, there would have been some sense in it. The S.D.A. has a valuable public enterprise function but is severely limited by lack of sufficient funds to enable it to take more initiative in creating jobs, instead of depending entirely on private enterprise.

The Labour Government was elected on a manifesto commitment to restructure the economy in a more Socialist manner, in order to increase spending in the essential social services. Their failure to bring about control of industry and the financial institutions by means of a radical extension of public ownership combined with industrial democracy, is the main reason why the needs of working people are under attack.

Massive cuts in public expenditure means cuts in essential services and longer dole queues. This social and economic wastage is political lunacy, especially on the part of a Labour Government.

The whole Labour and Trade Union Movement, both inside and outside Parliament, must tell the Government that we have had enough. Instead of listening to the dictates of the Treasury mandarins, the C.B.I. and the I.M.F., it is time that the Government listened to the voice of the people who elected them.

That is the only way to bring about what the Labour Party Manifesto referred to as fundamental and irreversible shift in the balance of wealth and power in favour of working people and their families.

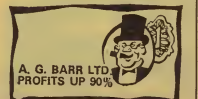


WALTER ALEXANDER LTD PROFITS UP 67%

by Robert Thomson, Trades Council Secretary

fightback in their area. They have already held a number of successful public meetings and demonstrations, and lobbied Glasgow District Council. The Cambuslang and Rutherglen trades council have submitted an economic resolution for inclusion on the agenda of the S.T.U.C. The nine point resolution contains two points which ask for the reversal of the public expenditure cuts and a return to free collective bargaining.

The key for the movement is now unity between trade unionists, pensioners, housewives and youth around the Left's alternative economic strategy. The only one which can prevent a Tory comeback and advance the Labour Government on the road to achieving the commitments contained in the 1973 election manifesto.



A. G. BARR LTD PROFITS UP 90%

All speakers opposed the cuts and stressed the need to return to free collective bargaining. Hugh d'Arcy gave the backing of the S.T.U.C. to the work of the Action Committee in fighting the cuts.

The conference passed the



Glasgow's houses NO SOLUTION TILL 2000

These cuts will mainly be felt in new building and modernisation schemes.

How can such cuts be justified? Well, you've probably heard the arguments before. According to the District, Glasgow's declining population will produce a surplus of houses by itself, council housing is, therefore, an unjustifiable drain on resources and, anyway, owner-occupation is more popular.

"SURPLUSES"

All these arguments ignore the basic facts. Any surplus of council houses will either be in low amenity areas or where the rents are too high. Hence today, despite the apparent surplus, there are still 20,000 homeless families in Glasgow who cannot afford either the high council rents or the mortgages required by owner-occupiers. High unemployment is already aggravating this situation and it will be made still worse by the increase in rents coming this April.

Already in 1975 (the last year for which there are figures) there were 834 evictions in Glasgow for non-payment of rent. Another 1,931 families abandoned their houses before this stage was reached.

So overcrowding will persist side by side with empty houses.

The second argument about the drain on resources is no more valid. The level of subsidy to council houses is almost exactly the same as the tax rebate given on owner-occupier mortgages.

Finally, on the third question of whether owner occupation is more popular, we must ask more popular for whom?

More popular, certainly, with

property and land speculators. But not for the people who simply want a decent home. The sale of council houses can mean one thing only: forcing those who continue as tenants and all new tenants into the worst and least desirable areas of housing.

GLASGOW BUILD

In practice, the Labour District Council seems to have turned its face squarely against new council housing. In every year between 1948 and 1973 Glasgow built more than 2,000 houses. Since 1973 the total has fallen below 2,000. In 1974 it was down to 1,770. In 1975 the figure was 1,868 and last year 1,825.

Modernisation is the other main activity of the housing department.

At the present rate of progress, the modernisation will not be completed on the pre-war houses till 1994. The early post-war houses will then be about 80 years old and in need of modernisation also.

To make matters worse, the District Council is slashing its budget for repairs and trying to find ways of foisting maintenance costs on to the tenants. This is at least part of the motive behind the proposed sale of council houses and the various self-help and tenant co-op schemes.

Council housing was a right long fought for by the Labour Movement of this city. It is a vital public service. The District Council must abandon its present policies of restricting the building programme, cutting maintenance and running down the Direct Work department.

Glasgow has already waited too long for decent housing.



RENFREW DISTRICT CONFERENCE

Renfrew and District Action Committee held a very successful and well attended conference in Paisley on Sunday, February 27 in A.E.U.W. Rooms. The chairman was W. Bell, the secretary of the Trades Council. On the platform were Hugh d'Arcy, Norman Buchan, Alan Adams and June Tait.

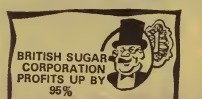
All speakers opposed the cuts and stressed the need to return to free collective bargaining. Hugh d'Arcy gave the backing of the S.T.U.C. to the work of the Action Committee in fighting the cuts.

The conference passed the

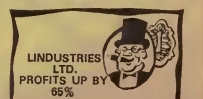
following resolution: "We declare our opposition to the cuts taking place in the Social Services and the high level of unemployment. As a result of these policies living standards are falling while prices and profits have increased. We urge a return to free collective bargaining so that wages can begin to restore and advance our living standards. We therefore

call on the government to reverse its policy on wage restraint and to take measures which will swiftly tackle unemployment.

"The plight of the workforce at Babcocks & Wilcox is particularly acute and we urge the government to intervene to prevent further redundancies in this area."



BRITISH SUGAR CORPORATION PROFITS UP BY 95%



LINDT'S LTD. PROFITS UP BY 65%



ing scandal

GLASGOW COUNCIL OF TENANTS

GLASGOW Council of Tenants are producing a Tenants Charter in May. Outlining its aims, John Lyons, chairman of Glasgow Council of Tenants, said that "the association is a non-political, non-sectarian body set up to fight for a freeze in rents and rates, decent housing and increased amenities."

Recently a deputation from the Council of Tenants met the Social Work and Education Conveners and Sub-conveners. The following requests were put to the appropriate Regional Committees:

- (1) No decrease in home helps.
- (2) All school lets to continue as usual for Tenants Associations and Old Age Pensioners clubs.
- (3) New pass system on buses.
- (4) No increase in pensioners fares.
- (5) Continuation of school janitors' overtime for lets.

The deputation received assurances that there would be no increase in pensioners' fares for another year. Schools lets will also remain the same for Tenants Associations and Old Age Pensioners groups. Unfortunately, the number of hours that the home helps will spend with their clients has been greatly reduced.

The Annual General Meeting of Glasgow Council Tenants will be held on May 20 in Cathkin Hotel, contact John Lyons at 041-248 7594.

Wages profits and inflation

THIS is the first in a series of explanatory articles supplied by the Scottish Labour College. This article is by Bill Sweeney.



Wages up 12 per cent. Prices up 16 per cent. Result: 4 per cent drop in living standards. This is the reality of inflation for working people in 1977. Systematic robbery.

What, then, is its cause? Is it, as the television commentators tell us, caused by working people? Is it that "wages are rising too fast" or that "we're consuming more than we produce"?

In fact the employers' own newspapers give the lie to such explanations. This what the "Observer" said on Jan. 23, 1977: "British wages are now lower than in any industrialised nation... If the hourly rate paid to a British worker were doubled, he would still be cheap labour by Swedish standards."

Still more revealing is this piece from the "Midland Bank Review" for November, 1976: "An agreement has been entered into with organised labour and adhered to, which in effect provides for a controlled decline of real wages. The agreement has been for restraint in the growth of money wages, but it has also been recognised that it will not be matched by the same degree of restraint on prices, in order to ensure that devaluing inflation would be compatible with restoring profit margins."

That says it all. Inflation does not destroy value. It redistributes it.

It takes from those who cannot control their prices (like the worker selling his power to

labour) and gives it to those who can: big business. Its effect is to boost "profit margins" — not all profits but those of the monopolies.

Everyone else — pensioner, worker, professional and small shopkeeper — it robs indiscriminately.

But our original question still remains unanswered. What is it that causes inflation? Why is it only recently that inflation has become a permanent feature of our lives?

Only if we understand this can those who possess the necessary industrial muscle use it not just to protect their own interests but those of all who are at present suffering from inflation.

Putting it very simply, inflation can be said to result from the growth of monopoly.

Today Britain's 100 biggest firms control roughly 70 per cent of its manufacturing capacity, and most possess some kind of monopoly control over their prices.

On top of this, no more than two dozen merchant banks dominate both these big industrial companies themselves and the financial institutions, like insurance companies and clearing banks, which supply them with capital.

It is this tightly knit group of financially-motivated institutions who are the real rulers of our country. They owe responsibility to no one. Their aim is maximum profit and they have the power to secure it.

For decades they have screwed super profits out of British industry and forced governments to give them all kinds of direct and indirect subsidies. For decades they have invested most of these super profits abroad in order to make still higher profits. Last year alone about a quarter of all "new" private capital investment — £1,600m — went abroad.

Now we are seeing the results. First, the complete technological rundown of British industry. Second (and this is a situation which has developed throughout the capitalist world), monopoly interference in the economy has reached a pitch where permanent recession sets in. The non-monopoly sector cannot operate at a profit. Capacity is closed down. The monopolies themselves cut output to maintain profits.

Only state interference is then able to prevent total collapse. How?

Callaghan explained this at the 1976 Labour Party conference: "by spending your way out of recession... by injecting inflation into the economy" — this is, by artificially boosting monopoly profits through expanding credit and thereby cutting back the real value of both wages and social spending.

And this is the tragedy. Instead of challenging monopoly and the state machine which serves it, the present Labour Government has simply followed its predecessor in attempting to solve the crisis on terms laid down by big business.

The time has now come to explode this particular myth. It's the monopolies which cause inflation. The only cure is to take them over.

YOUNG UNEMPLOYED GO BACK TO SCHOOL

THE February unemployment figures showed the situation in Strathclyde Region to be deteriorating still more sharply than in the rest of Scotland. In some of Glasgow's schemes rates of unemployment are already between 20 per cent and 30 per cent. Worst affected are the young and particularly the school leavers.

Clyde Action interviewed one school student who typifies the problems of youth today. The student concerned asked not to be identified, and she is therefore not named.

Clyde Action—How old are you and what qualifications do you have?

Student—I am 17 and finished my fifth year at school in June, 1976, with six "O" grade passes and three Higher passes.

C.A.—What is your present situation?

S.—I was unable to go to college or find employment, so after a summer on the dole I was forced to go back to school for a sixth year despite the financial strain on my parents. I now depend on my parents for all my personal income.

C.A.—What kind of career would you like to follow?

S.—Languages are my strongest subject, and since teaching has always appealed to me, I hope to teach modern languages or maybe find employment with an airline.

C.A.—What do you see as your future job prospects?

S.—Teaching seems out of the question with the present level of unemployment, and the high competition for airline jobs makes my future prospects there look very grim. If lucky, I might become another well-qualified shop assistant!

C.A.—Where do you think the blame lies?

S.—Although a Labour Party supporter, I feel that the Labour Government is not putting enough emphasis on Socialist policies and ignoring the problems of young people.

C.A.—What do you think would be the solution to the present level of youth unemployment?

S.—There should be more training facilities and subsidies given to young people to work in industry. Not just for working, but for training in different fields. I think a real Socialist Government could plan a decent future for young people.

Youth action committee

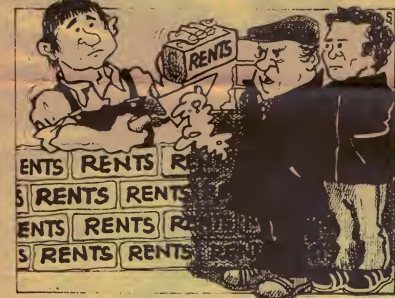
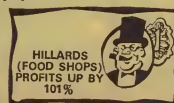
THE Clydeside Action Co-ordinating Committee recently decided to set up a Youth Action Committee. It's aim is to unite youth in the struggle against unemployment and the cutbacks in youth facilities (which were inadequate even before they were cut).

Young people face particular difficulties in fighting the cuts and unemployment, especially if they go straight on to the dole from school. The efforts of the Government to reduce youth unemployment through the job creation scheme have been the nearest drop in the ocean, the scheme in any case can only tackle the effects of unemployment, not its causes. A massive expansion in training facilities for the young is needed now, as are more job opportunities.

So while the Youth Action Committee, working alongside the other Action Committees supports the alternative economic strategy of those on the left, it will concentrate on the particular problems of Strathclyde's youth.

The committee needs the involvement of ALL Junior Shop Stewards Committees, the National Union of Students, The National Union of School Students, unemployed youth and already has support from the Scottish Trades Union Congress Youth Advisory Committee.

Affiliation to the Youth Action Committee costs £1.00 for organisations. Contact Janice Steele, c/o Langside College Students Representative a real Socialist Government could plan a decent future for young people.



AS AN UNEMPLOYED BUILDING WORKER I'LL TELL YOU THIS — IT'S THE ONLY BUILDING IN THE COUNTRY GOING UP

ASSIST NEEDS HELP

Assist in Govan Road is threatened with closure because of the cutbacks in Public Spending. The office was originally opened to deal with housing problems in the Govan area, and has since developed into a vital community information centre.

Assist gives advice on housing, social security, legal aid and any other social problems that may arise in the locality.

A Gingerbread Group, for one parent families, is also being formed in the area. Anyone interested should phone or call in at the office.

The staff wages are paid through the Job Creation Scheme but a grant is required for the day-to-day maintenance and upkeep of the shop. The General Purposes Committee is at present reviewing the grant, and a favourable outcome is essential for the survival of the shop. It would be shameful



if this shop was closed because it has become a vital part of the community and is particularly needed during the development of the area.

A committee called Glasgow Nursery Parents Group has been set up to fight the cuts in nurseries. The purpose of this is to prevent further attacks on the nursery service by exerting pressure on the Policy and Resources Committee of Strathclyde Regional Council. The Group also hope to campaign for more nursery facilities. Anyone interested should call in at the Assist Office in Govan Road.

THE CUTS-TWO WAVES STILL TO COME



	1978-9	1977-8
TOTAL CUTS	£649 million	£1,624 million
EDUCATION	£50 million	£210 million
HOUSING	£300 million	£400 million
AGRICULTURE AND ROADS	£100 million	£850 million
HEALTH	£25 million	£15 million
INDUSTRY	£6 million	£74 million

SHAPE OF THINGS TO COME

SO now we have the details for the next two years at least. The White Paper published late in February gives a blow by blow breakdown of the massive cuts due to be carried out in the near future. We can plainly see the full extent of the hatchet job at national level, but the people of Clydeside do not need to be told

of the local effects. There can be no doubt that those sections of the community least able to defend themselves are the hardest hit. Old folk suffer more neglect. Kids get less education and lose their youth clubs and play schemes. The socially deprived and needy are left to fend for themselves. This is the reality of

Cuts so far announced in Strathclyde as a result of the 1976-7 cuts:

Four nurseries closed.
Four old folks homes closed.
Home helps reduced.
440 nursery nurses jobless.
144 lollipop men jobless.
Transport services reduced.
Fire safety checks reduced.
Several hundred newly-trained teachers jobless.

the present policies outlined in the White Paper.

Our job is not meekly to accept them, but to campaign militantly in the trade union movement and in the communities to reverse them!

That is the message of this paper and the Action Committees it represents.

... AND THE HUMAN REALITY OF IT

Mr Charles McCaffrey is an old age pensioner suffering partial disablement after a stroke last year. Because of this he was entitled to a home help during the week. More recently the cuts have reduced his home help to two days each week. A few weeks ago Mr McCaffrey, who lives in a high flat in the Gorbals, took a second, more serious stroke and lay unconscious for several days before being found.

If his home help had not been cut back this man would have been found and treated earlier.



And the job to be done to reverse them

SCOTTISH LABOUR COLLEGE CLASSES
"Introduction to Scientific Socialism"
every Thursday at 7.30 p.m.
A.E.U.W. House
145 West Regent Street,
Glasgow

CLYDEBANK ACTION COMMITTEE
PUBLIC MEETING
WEDNESDAY
30 MARCH 7.30 p.m.
CLYDEBANK LESSER TOWN HALL

AROUND THE ACTION COMMITTEES...



GLASGOW WEST AGAINST THE CUTS

THE Glasgow West Action Committee held a conference in St Bride's Centre, Partick, on January 29, called "Community in Crisis", chaired by Willie McCall, an U.C.A.T.T. Branch Secretary.

Jim McLean, Albion convenor, left no one in any doubt about the bitter disillusionment felt among people because of the Government's failure to carry out socialist policies to bring down the high level of unemployment.

Neil Carmichael, M.P., spoke of the Government's enormous task of beating inflation and getting the country out of the economic crisis. His view was that the crisis could be tackled successfully if the Government nationalised and controlled the Bank of England and insurance companies.

Malcolm Green, Regional Councillor, expressed regret that Strathclyde Regional Council had to take drastic measures to curb expenditure in the Social and Public Services.

He believed they had no alternative as money normally channelled through Government grants wasn't available.

Representatives of Partick Garage spoke of the fight to retain their jobs. The mood of the conference, attended by over 100 people, was one of anger and frustration at policies being carried out by the Government. Many delegates spoke vociferously of the socially damaging long-term effects Public Expenditure

cuts were having on weaker sections of the community; the elderly and the young. Lowering of living standards because of astronomical prices, especially in food and heating were the causes of deprivation and suffering among a large section of the community.

Alex Ferry, in summing-up the feelings expressed, spoke of the critical situation facing the Government. Some of the measures which had had to be taken were caused by circumstances outside their control, although some of the blame must be borne by forces in the Government, whose lack of Socialist ideas had succeeded in splitting the Labour and Trade Union Movement. He said we must unite our forces to pressure the Government to return to the Socialist policies laid down in their election manifesto.

More education not less

THAT was the verdict of a conference "Education Cuts and Unemployment" held in Jordanhill College in February. Attended by representatives from Scotstoun Marine S/Stewards Com-

mittee, N.A.L.G.O., N.U.P.E., T.G.W.U., E.I.S., and other interested parties, the conference set out to pose solutions to the ever growing threat to the future of education in Scotland today.

MR KEIR BLOOMER, chairman of Glasgow district E.I.S., pointed to the continual decline in salaries and conditions being experienced by teachers today. Unemployment was now an unpleasant fact of life for many teachers, and all the indications are that much worse is to come. This theme was taken up by Jimmy Milne, General Secretary of the S.T.U.C., who said that unemployment for teachers meant an attack on the basic rights of our young people and a threat to the development of our society.

DENNIS CANAVAN, M.P., pointed to the statement issued by the Students Council calling for unity with, and support from, the Labour Movement, in fighting all aspects of the cuts and unemployment. This same support, he urged, must also be given to those Labour M.P.s who are fighting in Parliament for a radical change in Government policy. A change that will bring an expansion of education facilities, not a reduction.

Ayrshire Action Committee

AYRSHIRE Labour Party passed a resolution endorsing the Action Committees fight against the cuts and calling on the Government to carry through Labour Party policy.

The Ayrshire District Committee of the A.E.U.W. passed the following resolution:

We reject the Social Contract and call for an immediate return to Free Collective Bargaining, to give Trade Unions back their basic rights in representing their members.



FIGHT AGAINST THE CLOSURE OF PARTICK GARAGE

THE struggle to prevent the closure and redundancies in Partick Garage has taken the following forms:

1. A mass meeting of passenger transport staff unanimously refused to enter new negotiations with management concerning new shifts or staff dispersal.
2. The Partick Garage Action Committee with its stickers and posters against the closure has continued to bring the situation to the attention of the travelling public in order to get the maximum support for its campaign. Many M.P.s and councillors have now expressed public support, although some Strathclyde councillors have opposed the campaign.

T.G.W.U. Shop Stewards Committee has asked all its branches to consider supporting the N.A.L.G.O./N.U.P.E. demonstration on March 9 against cuts in public services.

Clyde Action No. 1 gave details of the cuts which would result in services if the garage were closed. The workers there still need the maximum assistance from the trade union movement.

Monklands

THE Action Committee are planning to meet Frank McElhone, Under Secretary of State for Scotland, with their petition of 20,000 signatures protesting against the closure of Alexandria Hospital.

The Action Committee will be marching with the hospital workers on the March 9 demonstration.

Clyde Action launching social

OVER 100 people attended this event on February 2. Welcoming the guests, co-ordinating Committee chairman Mr Callum McKay, said that the paper had an indispensable task to perform in the coming months. It would play an important part in providing clarity and direction for all the many struggles now springing up on Clydeside against unemployment and the cuts.

He reported that over 6,000 copies of the first issue had already been taken up by the Labour Movement.

Mr Ken Macmillan, Vice-President of the Strathclyde Federation of Trades Councils, also welcomed the paper. It would, he believed, help rebuild that unity which had existed in the West of Scotland in the campaign against the Common Market.

Cathcart's prospective Parliamentary Labour candidate, Mr John Maxton, demanded that the government alter course and adopt the alternative policies endorsed by the Labour Party conference. He praised the work of the action committees in building unity between different sections of working people and in particular with those like college lecturers and doctors who previously had little relationship with the organised working class movement.

He felt that CLYDE ACTION was a major addition to the Labour Movement's campaign strength on Clydeside.



CAMPAIGN FOR GROWTH

EXTEND public ownership. Reverse the cuts. Direct investment into industry. Slash arms expenditure and capital export.

This was the message from last month's STUC to the Labour Government. Only a drastic change of course could save the government from disaster. Big business control over economic policy had to be broken — and broken fast.

S.T.U.C. and Action Committees

"THIS Congress condemns and rejects Government policy of cuts in social services. Such a policy will have an adverse effect on future generations and cause unemployment amongst wide sections of working people. The cuts must be restored. The General Council is instructed to give full support to all trade unions involved in the struggle for the above aims.

Congress congratulates those affiliated organisations which have set up Action Committees to fight the cuts in public services and unemployment. Congress calls on those affiliated organisations where Action Committees do exist or are being set up to work in close liaison with the agents of Congress, mainly the Trades Councils. Success in this task can only assist and carry forward the aims of the Trade Union Movement in the interests of the working people."

Callum MacKay, Secretary of the Paisley District A.U.E.W., and Chairman of the Clydeside Action Co-ordinating Committee, comments...

This resolution will be welcomed by all those active in the Action Committees throughout Clydeside. The mood of the local workers can be seen from the two demonstrations in Glasgow during March and April, when over 10,000 marched against the cuts and the Social Contract.

It is now over 18 months since the first Action Committee was set up, and since then they have increased in number throughout the region, each one providing a focus for united action by all sections of the working community against the attacks on their living standards.

All committees should now work for full implementation of the resolution to enable us to fight with greater vigour against the disastrous anti-working class policies being carried out by this present Labour Government, and to compel them to adopt socialist policies.

S.T.U.C. CALL FOR ACTION

Almost unanimously the Congress condemned the government's cuts in public spending as largely responsible for the current levels of mass unemployment. It endorsed a series of resolutions calling for action.

Ron Curran of NUPE demanded maximum support for local government workers in Strathclyde now resisting attempts at a combined cut in pay and jobs.

Sam Barr of the Boilermakers detailed Clydeside firms threatening closure and redundancy. "Workers should be encouraged to say 'No' to unemployment in threatened firms".

The main General Council resolution argued that blame for the present crisis lay squarely on the

shoulders of the private enterprise system and its failure to invest in British industry.

The answer was "an expansion of the public sector in industry and finance to create the possibility of long-term planning of investment strategy".

A systematic expansion of both current and capital expenditure in social services was necessary "to provide the services our people so clearly need, and to assist in the refutation of the economy".

The government must end the shameful face of present policies: equipment and workers unemployed at the same time as profits and overseas investment shot up to record levels. The resources were there. They must be used for growth.

SMASH THE SOCIAL CONTRACT

THIS was the call from many thousands of workers who downed tools on the 20 May in answer to the initiative of the Leylands Shop Stewards and the Liaison Committee for the Defence of the Trade Unions.

The action was nationwide, and in Clydeside the response from workers in Chrysler, Yarrows shipyard and Rolls-Royce Hillington, was in striking contrast to the confused acceptance of further pay restraint by a small majority at the S.T.U.C. Conference in Rotherley that same day. More than 1,000 workers representing factories including Babcock and Wilcox, Prestcold, Massey-Ferguson and Wills Tobacco, marched through Glasgow to make very clear their rejection of any more doses of the social contract.

NONSENSICAL

At the rally that followed the march, Jimmy Reid made clear that acceptance of the Social Contract meant a refusal of unions to protect the real interests of their members. It was nonsensical to argue that high wages caused inflation, he said. On the contrary, it will be by increasing the purchasing power of the consumer that the inflationary spiral will be broken, and that can only be brought about by a total rejection of the Social Contract.

This was reinforced by Harry Selby, Labour M.P. for Govan who pointed to the way forward: "The only alternative to the present Labour Government is a Labour government pursuing Socialist policies." Already the positive developments of the S.T.U.C. Conference that are outlined elsewhere on this page point the way forward for the movement in the coming period.



MUST THIS HAPPEN AGAIN?

THE UCS struggle of 1971-2 successfully smashed Tory plans to butcher shipbuilding on the Clyde. It marked the beginning of an organised fight-back against redundancy for the whole country.

Now Britain's shipyards are threatened again.

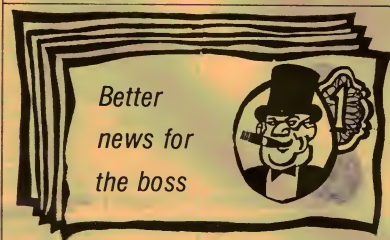
Pressures are being put on the government to turn the Shipbuilding Nationalisation Bill into a charter for big business bloodsuckers.

Unless its original terms are restored, the bill will have off the industry's profitable sections, close much of the rest and allow the country's private shipowners

to go on placing their orders abroad.

The latest report of the Shipbuilders and Repairers National Association claims that current orders provide work for no more than 40% of present capacity — at the same time as 70% of new British orders go overseas.

It is in this context that Clydeside's yards are preparing to fight back. On 19 April, 15,000 workers struck work. James Airlie, the Govan convener, said the strike "Showed the workers' concern for the future of the industry and their determination to resist any closures".



(This carries on the "Good News for the Boss" feature of our last issue. The welcome reception it received points to peoples' feelings when given the blunt facts.)

Well the sun still shines for some of us... Schroders, the merchant bankers, are making an 'ex gratia' payment to its former deputy chairman, James Wolfensohn, of £58,000 — and the lucky chap did not even have a service contract! It's gratifying to see some poor souls managing to keep the wolf from the door, especially when we are

inundated with loud patriotic calls from the media and the Moderates about rocking the Ship of State, and our backs to the wall, and Wage Anarchy threatening the fabric of society... you must have heard it.

So in answer to these calls to our collective conscience we feel it is part of our bounden duty to do all we can to promote the interests of the nation by giving you a few details of how profits are doing in this time of crisis. Yes you've guessed they are still on the up and up.

SCOTTISH TRADES UNION CONGRESS

WAY FORWARD FOR LABOUR

Jimmy Milne,
Gen. Sec. S.T.U.C.

THE Scottish Trade Union Movement has expressed deep and mounting concern at the development of government policy on the issue of public sector spending. This concern culminated in a demonstration called by the Scottish Trades Union Congress on March 9.

It was estimated that some 11,000 workers participated. They represented all sections of the movement particularly those employed in the public service.

Attacks on public expenditure are not new. Tory governments have resorted to such policies at times of economic stringency. The opening shot in the present campaign was fired by Mr Tony Barber in his autumn budget of 1973.

The Trade Union Movement voted for the return of a Labour government in the elections of 1974. Part of their thinking was that this was the most effective way of opposing cuts in public sector spending. These cuts could only lead to a worsening of the services provided and to a reduction in the employment provided in the public sector.

What has transpired since 1974 had led to a great deal of disillusionment on the part of working people which has affected the performance of the Labour Party in subsequent by-elections and local government elections.

Progressively since 1974 the attitude of the Labour Government towards public expenditure has become more and more stringent. Expenditure in public services has



Jimmy Milne, General Secretary, S.T.U.C.

been restricted. This has led to mass unemployment in the construction industry and whilst there have been no dramatic redundancies in public sector employment, there has undoubtedly been a substantial reduction in the number of job opportunities provided. This in turn is reflected in the unemployment now faced by youngsters leaving school.

Hugh D'Arcy, in his presidential address at the recent S.T.U.C. likened government policy to the use of blood letting as a cure for one sick and dying of anaemia.

The effects of public expenditure cuts in both education and the health service are quite devastating. Worse still, they are damaging to the next generation. Those coming from school at the time of cuts are at a

special disadvantage as compared to those who have gone before and those who will follow. Cuts in health service spending can only lead to longer queues for surgery and to the toleration of abysmal standards of provision in such sectors of the health service as the geriatric and psychiatric hospitals.

We have long bemoaned the shortage of school teachers and of large class sizes and at a time when it was possible to make impact on that situation because of a falling birth rate, we saw for the first time for many years young qualified people leaving the college of education unable to find a job in teaching.

Cuts in public sector spending are no cure for the economic problems we in Britain face. In fact, these cuts have further compounded our problems. As far as the nationalised industries are concerned, deliberate decisions to slow down investment can have quite catastrophic effects on the industries using the services they provide.

The suggestion that money saved in public sector spending would find its way into investment in the private sector can only be described as

ludicrous. Equally, the suggestion sometimes made that the public sector is denying too great a share of the workforce and thus denying resources to private industry is so silly that it barely requires refutation.

The Trade Union and Labour Movement has over the past few years repeatedly argued with government about the soundness of this policy. We must now insist that the problem of unemployment be grappled with and the best way to do this is by injecting additional resources into the public sector. That way we create new employment opportunities and make a contribution to the enriching of the living standards of working men and women and their families.

It is essential that the campaign against government public sector spending policies is supported not only in the factories but in the broad community. For that reason as many allies as can be found must be encouraged to put their shoulder to the wheel. That is why the contribution made by Clyde Action is so welcome.



10,000 AGAINST

THAT was the size of the massive demonstration that brought Glasgow to a halt on March 9 in protest at the present government policy of cutbacks in public spending. Three thousand N.A.L.G.O. members stopped work for the day and joined their fellow trade unionists, despite a last minute interim interdict that forbade their official attendance. Delegates from all over the country joined 400 of their members from the Glasgow branch of the union.

In addition to a large number of N.U.P.E. members there were contingents from virtually every industrial section in the West of Scotland, with every union being well represented. Undoubtedly the key aim of uniting all sections of the Labour Movement around opposition to the cuts has been fully achieved by this massive demonstration of solidarity with the public service unions.

The calls arising from the demonstration and day of action were overwhelmingly in the direction of organising and consolidating support in the

DIRECT LABOUR— Save the Bill and protect housing standards

says Bill Towill, Secretary, Scottish Council of Tenants

LABOUR's last election manifesto promised measures that would bring to heel the private employers whose pursuit of profit has created nothing but chaos in the building industry.

The Direct Labour Organisation Bill represented an important extension of public ownership. It would have enabled local authorities with direct labour departments to undertake work for other local authorities, tender for new town developments and undertake any construction work directed by the Minister of Housing.

Not surprisingly the private employers did not look kindly on competition of this type.

The National Federation of Building Trade Employers and the Tory Party launched a major campaign. Thousands of pounds were spent on press advertising and leaflets. The message was plain — mostly plain lies. Direct Labour Departments were hopelessly inefficient. Private enterprise could build houses more cheaply.

Unfortunately, in face of this attack, the construction unions failed to mobilise their members in defence. The Bill was first watered down by the government and now has been withdrawn altogether as part of the deal with the Liberals.

Building employers, Tories and Liberals are exultant. Their victory opens the way for an all-out attack on existing direct labour departments.

The Birmingham Tory-controlled council has already decided to close its construction department. Now Glasgow faces the axe.

DYNES
Councillor Dynes has emerged as



one of the department's harshest critics. So has Councillor Turpie of the Regional Council. But when making exaggerated claims about

high costs on particular contracts they conveniently forget the disastrous record of Laidlaws, Myles Callaghan and others.

The cardinal point for all working class tenants is the disastrous effect which private subcontractors have on housing standards. All Tenants Associations have faced this at one time or other. Subcontractors give a guarantee of only six to 12 months.

They refuse to take responsibility for the faults which develop once the building has settled in. Nor do the private suppliers of building materials — like the Darnley bricks — take responsibility for faults which develop later.

In Milton of Campsie houses built by lump (non-union) labour two years ago are already falling apart.

Only a publically-owned building industry can solve these problems. In the meantime all tenants must unite to protect the public sector that already exists.

Out of the Jungle

FOR building workers direct labour has represented the only sector of a chaotic industry where anything like decent conditions exist.

Jim McBride (UCATT Regional Council Member) summarises the advantages. First, job security — not being laid off when a site is completed and no black-listing of militants. Second, proper working conditions, canteens, toilets. Third, union recognition and no lump-labour.

Members of the Electricians' Union also see poorer working conditions and possible redundancies as resulting from any rundown of Glasgow's direct labour department.

The interests of both workers and tenants therefore demand a major campaign which can unite all sections of the movement in defence of the department. The Glasgow Trades Council has an important role to play in mobilising this fight. It is important that it is given every support both by workers in industry and action committees and tenants associations in the localities.

Transport — fair game for cuts

"WE do have the dearest bus fares..."

"But our bus service is as good, if not one of the best."

The above comes from Councillor John Reid, Vice-Chairman of Strathclyde's Highways and Transportation Committee.

Most people will easily recognise the first quote as a reference to Glasgow. The second quote will be less readily identifiable as referring to Glasgow. In fact bus passengers will deny, justifiably, that this has been their experience. It should be pointed out that Councillor Reid lives in Greenock. The reality of transport in Glasgow is that we have the highest fares and a steadily declining service.

In the past 12 months Glasgow has climbed to become the top for the fares league:

stages	Glasgow	London	Manchester	Edinburgh
1 stage	10p	6p	6p	5p
2 stages	10p	6p	11p	10p
3 stages	18p	10p	16p	10p
over 4	26p	16p	16p	15p

During the same period the Passenger Transport Executive have cut back services reducing mileage by 10%, linked to the closure of Bridgeton and Partick Garage.

This policy of cutting services and increasing fares will always lead to a loss of passengers. This in turn results in a loss of revenue which gives rise to demands for further fare increases and service cuts, and the vicious circle continues. This policy has clearly failed to halt the decline and attract passengers back to public transport.

In fact an alternative policy needs to be fought for among the unions in transport, passengers, action committees, and community councils.

The central demand of this policy must be that the Government increase subsidies to transport instead of cutting them. A long term

freeze on fares should be demanded (South Yorkshire recently proposed a freeze for nine years).

Glasgow relies more than any other city in Britain on public transport. Therefore the future policies of the G.O.P.T.E. take on greater significance. A freeze on fares and an overhaul and expansion of services is vital, with an examination of route patterns in Glasgow.

The P.T.E. and Strathclyde should produce plans which will guarantee the future of an expanding transport system in the region. This would allay the fears of workers employed at Maryhill, Langside and Newlands Gardens who fear the fate of Bridgeton and Partick await them.

John Lyons,
A.U.E.W. Convener,
Larkfield Bus Works.



THE CUTS

future period. N.A.L.G.O. Strathclyde district are implementing an overtime ban from April 1 — as was pointed out, one man's overtime is another man's job. The ban will be in operation as long as there is no further recruitment to fill vacancies as they arise.

At present the union is appealing against the court decision to ban strike action, and while the matter is still being dealt with at the legal level there cannot be any immediate large scale actions planned. Nevertheless the Glasgow branch of N.A.L.G.O. has taken the initiative of organising a campaign of public meetings throughout Glasgow to promote their policy on the cuts and to inform the public of what they really mean. Chris Barter, Publicity Officer for the Branch, has already issued an appeal for all community organisations such as Tenants' Associations to join with them in such a campaign. The Clyde-side Action Co-ordinating Committee has agreed to give all help possible in jointly organising public meetings in the city.



AVE IT REMINDS ME OF THE WAY THE GOVERNMENT IS TREATING US WITH THEIR CUTS IN OUR SOCIAL SERVICES

WHERE HAVE ALL THE JOBS GONE?

CLYDESIDE has long been the centre of Heavy Industry in Scotland — ships, steel, engineering, railways and so on. That situation is ending, and fast.

Closures, cutbacks, rationalisation plans, all have spelt out one word to working people — unemployment. Yet no nation (and Scotland is a nation) can survive without that basic manufacturing capacity, unless it is to be in permanent pawn to multinational corporations, banking organisations and others who have no interest in Scottish (or British) workers, except as a source of profit.

The results of years of neglect of Clydeside are now obvious — the virtual lack of investment in new machinery to improve production and working conditions means that many industries are now "uncompetitive". So while we import ships from South Korea, we close down yards on the Clyde; while we import steel from the EEC, we close down steelworks in Glasgow and Lanarkshire and so on.

Take the British Steel Corporation's plant at Clydebridge as an example. The 10 year BSC rationalisation plan involves the closure of the Melting Shop and the Slab Mill in the next 6 months, total redundancies 1,000. The Clyde Iron Works will shut by 1980, total redundancies 1,200 plus. The Tollcross Steelworks close by will shut in July with 300 redundancies. So in the locality of Cambuslang alone, there will be over 2,500 jobs lost. The further closure of the Power Stations at Clydesmill and Dalmarock will involve over 500 jobs. As Gordon Massie, Convener at Clydebridge says, "By 1980, Cambuslang will be an industrial dereliction area. British Steel's Social Department has canvassed for 3 years and interviewed 520 firms about coming to Cambuslang: only two have shown any firm interest (and they have made no commitment), and at most will provide 400 jobs."

Is the decline and fall of Heavy Industry inevitable? The workforce in BSC has resisted the closures, but has not had sufficient support from the Union leadership.

Gordon Massie points out "In the great NALGO/NUPE strike on March 9, the Union leadership were actively involved in the fight against cuts and redundancies — it is essential to win this sort of support if we are going to protect our jobs."

But the question of new industries needs to be raised. When an old-established industry does start to contract because of developments in society, a planned economy would be able to redirect employment into new developing industries. But we don't have a planned economy and crucially few new industries are coming to Clydeside. WHY? Because profits are higher elsewhere. The profiteers have had their kill, and pastures new now beckon them. They cannot of course be expected to show any degree of social responsibility for their workers.

Last year, British Industry and financiers invested £1,923,000,000 abroad. All of that could have been used to regenerate British Industry, and much of it should have come to Clydeside. Instead industry on the Clyde declines further and unemployment continues to grow.

What can be done?

A Labour Government prepared to tackle long-term problems would have to force industry to invest in Britain and prohibit capital exports. A planned growth in the economy would then be possible, and profiteering and exploitation curbed. The Labour Movement through its Union Branches, its Trade Councils, its Trades Councils must continue to resist all redundancies until alternative employment is secured. The destruction of Heavy Industry in Scotland is otherwise inevitable.

BIG FIRMS WEAK ECONOMIES

This is the second in a series of explanatory articles supplied by the Scottish Labour College. This article is by John Duignan.

THE multi-national company is a unique feature of modern capitalism. It seeks profits on a global basis unhindered by the local interests of individual countries. Financial and material resources are gathered by the multi-national from all over the world and are directed to whatever area is considered to yield the highest profit. The largest of the multi-nationals have incomes greater than half the countries in the world. Add to that the fact that they operate in virtually every non-socialist country, and it becomes clear why countries like Scotland who play host to these giants and their subsidiaries are reduced to a position of political and economic dependence.

Economically, the decisions of the large multi-nationals to postpone, shift or place future investment in one country and not another will have significant effect on future production, income and employment in these countries. In Japan after the War, American capital caused the economy to boom — especially heavy industry — while in the UK, especially Scotland, shipbuilding and steel production went into severe decline that continues



today. Profit-motivated decisions taken in London, Tokyo or New York are not related to the specific needs of a local area. A decision to disinvest in one sector does not

consider the disruption to dependent industry or capital in that area: the cost in terms of idle skills and redundant machinery is not counted.

The economic power of capital is translated into direct political power through its relationship with the capitalist state; but with the multi-national and international capital certain contradictions appear at various points. The multi-national company is first and foremost a national corporation (eg US) but one that has access to, and control of, international capital and this brings it into contact with foreign



states and foreign competing capital. Host capitalist governments are committed to mediating on behalf of their national capital, and to 'managing capitalism' in general by economic orchestration (cutting public expenditure, wage control, rising taxes, monetary control etc.). But at the same time they are increasingly reliant on international capital and foreign multi-nationals, and it is precisely here that their everyday operations make the managing of capitalism beyond the powers of individual capitalist states.

Scotland is massively dependent on international capital. The failure of Scottish capitalism has long been evident in the decline of ship-

LOCAL ELECTIONS

THE May district council elections have seen serious set-backs for the Labour Party across Clydeside.

The worst blow came in Glasgow. Here almost the entire leadership of the Labour Group was defeated and the party was left with only a minority of 30 seats against 42 for Tories, Nationalists and Liberals.

Bob McTaggart, newly elected Labour councillor for Anderson ward in Glasgow, gave the following assessment to Clyde Action:

"The damage which was done to the Labour Party in Glasgow by recent revelations in the press of so-called housing scandals and the bickering amongst Labour councillors themselves certainly cost us votes.

"But even if there had been no such revelations the reality of the situation is that working people who would have normally voted Labour, having been harder hit by the current economic situation than any other section of the community, naturally felt let down and betrayed by the Party. This showed at the polls."

Clyde Action now sees it as all the more important to step up the fight for Left policies and to compel the Government to carry out Labour Party conference decisions for an end to the cuts. Locally there must be total opposition to any deal with the Nationalists or Tories.



building, engineering and textiles and in the economic and social deprivation in its towns and cities.

The failure of international capitalism in Scotland is equally evident: as the multi-nationals have moved in to replace Scottish capital there has been a heightening of the extremes of unemployment, deprivation and urban decay. In Scottish manufacturing about 60% of employment is accounted for by international capital. These corporations are concentrated in the fastest growing sectors of industry (electronics, computers, chemicals) and there is a restriction of capital to the traditional sectors that need re-equipping and modernising.



Not only does the multi-national reap profit from the ripest sections of the economy, but it is able to enter into privileged deals with State institutions to enable it to hive off even greater dividends: Rio Tinto Zinc, a particularly rapacious British multi-national has been granted Treasury permission to be treated as free from dividend control, enabling it to raise its dividends by 47%.

Similarly, substantial 'tax-cut incentives' are offered to multi-nationals investing here. This usually results in the Inland Revenue allowing the company to decide its own level of taxation.

The fight facing the Labour Movement in confrontation with the multi-national is often intensified by government support for the company against any progressive measures. The hostility of the big oil companies to the unionising of the oil rigs is already well known.

However, the degree to which the multi-nationals and foreign capital can attempt to dictate government policy can be seen in the reaction of the President of the US Chamber of Commerce to the mildly reformist proposals of the Bullock Report on worker participation: his message was simple — access to the board for workers would mean that the US multi-nationals would not invest in Britain.



Not only does the existence of the multi-national corporation call for increased co-operation by the international Labour and Trade Union Movement to organise in defence of working people in whatever country they are being exploited, but it raises very forcibly the need for an alternative to this kind of capitalist control. That alternative is the social and public ownership of the means of production, distribution and exchange.

SCOTTISH LABOUR COLLEGE CLASSES

"Introduction to Scientific Socialism"
every Thursday at 7.30 p.m.
A.E.U.W. House
145 West Regent Street,
Glasgow



BACK TO THE 1930's?

THAT'S where we are heading unless present government policy is reversed.

Already one man in nine is unemployed in Glasgow. Indeed, in some way the situation is worse and more insidious than it was in the 1930s.

Then it was caused by mass layoffs. Now it's more the result of "natural wastage". Then it fell heaviest on an already trained and experienced labour force.

Now it is mainly the school-leavers and the young people who suffer. They are robbed not just of employment, but also of the training, work experience and self-confidence that employment brings.

THERE are now 6340 school leavers unemployed in the West of Scotland.

19% of all young people below the age of 20 seeking employment cannot find a job.

In Glasgow, the percentage of the working population registered as unemployed was in

March 1975	5.4%
March 1976	7.4%
March 1977	9.3%
March 1978	???

SOME FIRMS CLOSED SINCE 1975

Scottish Aviation
Blair's Ltd., Govan
Stephens, Linthouse
Personna, Hillington
STC, East Kilbride
Lyles Carpet, Bridgeton
Canada International
Daily News
Bridgeton Garage
Polar Engines, Govan
Weirs of Yoker
Thomas White Ltd., Paisley
Ailsa Shipyard
Duncan Low, Drumchapel

NEXT ISSUE—Robin Cooke, M.P., on Peace, Disarmament, and Economic Growth.



Registered Unemployed by Exchange March 1977



Youth Unemployment

The percentage of the registered unemployed who are below the age of 20 has increased from 13.4% in 1973 to 21.3% in 1976.

Over this period, youth unemployment in Scotland has grown

under 20 registered as unemployed, in Scotland.

In 1976 there were 24,800 males under 20 registered as unemployed, in Scotland.

Under 20 registered as unemployed, in Scotland.

nearly 2½ times, whereas total unemployment has grown by only 50%.

One of the most disgusting features of the present crisis is the way in which young people have been affected.



CLYDE ACTION

TO UNITE AGAINST THE CUTS

Clyde Action is the paper of Clydeside's action committees. It is published six times a year by the Clydeside Co-ordinating Committee, with the support of Trades Councils, shop stewards committees, trade union and Labour Party branches. It stands for the unity of interest between all sections of working people on Clydeside.

Ensure you are supplied with regular information on the fight for jobs and services by placing an order.

Please supply.....copies of the next issue

Organisation.....

Address for Despatch.....

Please find enclosed an annual subscription (75p including postage)

Name.....

Address.....

Return to Jo Kelly, 1014 Govan Road, Glasgow G51.

Partick Garage — a struggle lost



AS we all know Partick Garage closed on April 23. Firstly we would like to thank all parties involved for their help during the fight against the cuts in the services and the closing of our Garage.

We in Partick Garage were bitterly disappointed that we lost the fight. We were promised backing from all other Garages in the city but when the crunch came support diminished from 11 garages to 4 garages. The membership in most garages was coned by a letter received from the Strathclyde Regional Council and the G.G.P.T.E. which stated that there would be no more cuts in the bus service or garage closures within the

next 2 years. It is our belief that there will be more cuts, which will inevitably result from reductions in local government spending for the year 78-79.

Realising this attack, the official T.G.W.U. campaign to "Save Our Services" (S.O.S.) must begin to put into practice its intention to fight the closures tooth and nail, garage by garage, bus by bus and worker by worker. The practical assistance did not materialise in our case but it must begin to if other garages are to be saved.

Again on behalf of Partick Garage Action Committee and the workers we would like to thank everyone for their support during our struggle.

Clydeside Youth Action Committee
LOBBY THE REGIONAL COUNCIL
WEDNESDAY
11th MAY, 1977
Assemble at the City Chambers, George X
10.30 a.m.
Reverse the Cuts
End Youth Unemployment

SOUTH WEST ACTION COMMITTEE

A SUCCESSFUL pre-election public meeting was held in Govan organised by the S.W.A.C. An invitation was issued to all candidates standing in the four Govan wards. In opening the meeting the Chairman noted that the Action Committee had campaigned for the last 18 months on opposition to the cuts and unemployment in the area, and felt that this was an opportunity for the electors to find out exactly where the candidates stood on these issues, and to make them answerable to those electing them.

All candidates were totally opposed to the cuts and demanded that they should be reversed. Davy Deans (Scottish Labour Party), the sitting regional councillor for Kingston and Ibrox said that in his area, housing was the number one priority. 90% of the people who came to see him came about this kind of problem. People were financially worse off than last year but rents were increasing. He attacked the intimidation of tenants by the Council: those who did not want to leave their area should not be forced to do so, nor should they be forced into sub-standard replacement housing. He pointed out that there was land in the Kingston area that was zoned for industrial use but could be better used for housing. Housing is a basic need not a luxury, he concluded.

Davy McGeoch (Communist Party) pointed out the cutbacks in the Govan area: the closure of the South Govan Town Hall, early closure of the swimming baths and the public libraries. This he said was in effect an attack on the living standards of the working people in the area. The problem lay not just with the local authorities but went right up to government policy: the Labour Government is carrying out the demands of the multi-national companies and the monopolies at the expense of the workers. The need now, he ended, was to reflate the economy, put cash back in people's pockets and increase social spending. He called for continued support for the local Action Committee.

Andy McMahon (Labour Party) and sitting councillor for Ibrox made a spirited attack on the antics of the S.N.P. in voting against the Shipbuilding Nationalisation Bill which is vital for the continuation of the Clydeside yards. He went on to condemn their policy of selling council houses, which echoed Tory Party plans. This would result in the creation of ghettos of sub-standard housing throughout the city, and instead of unity being built between groups of tenants, we would see sectional interests prevailing.

In his concluding remarks the Chairman pointed out that it was candidates standing on genuine socialist policies that required the support of all activists and electors, and that only by a return to the demands of the last Labour Party conference would we see an end to the present level of cutbacks and the intolerable level of unemployment.